

ABSTRACT

A locked portal unlocking control system (21) including an encryption device (22) responsive to input of a structure identifier to encrypt a time representation with an encrypting cryptographic key (37) for the structure to produce a cryptogram. At least one structure (32, 32a, 32b,...32n) is remote of the encryption device (22) having a lock mechanism (26) controlling opening of a portal to the structure. Each structure (32, 32a, 32b,...32n) further includes a decryption device (27, 27a, 27b,...27n) having an unlocking assembly (54) coupled to the lock mechanism (26) with the decryption device (27-27n) being responsive to input of the cryptogram (24) to unlock the lock mechanism (26) if a decrypted time representation produced by decrypting the cryptogram meets a time-based criteria in the decryption device (27-27n). A method is also disclosed including the steps of creating a cryptogram, transporting (82) the cryptogram (24) to a remote structure (32-32n), inputting the cryptogram (24) into a decryption device (27) at the structure, decrypting the cryptogram to produce a decrypted time representation (83), comparing (84) the decrypted time representation with a time-based criteria (61) and unlocking the lock (54) if the decrypted time representation (83) meets the time-based criteria (61).